

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Bob Lake, on March 30, 2009 at 10:00  
A.M., in Room 152 Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Bob Lake, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Jill Cohenour, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Janna Taylor, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Dick Barrett (D)  
Rep. Mark Blasdel (R)  
Rep. Edward B. Butcher (R)  
Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)  
Rep. Robin Hamilton (D)  
Rep. Brian Hoven (R)  
Rep. Mike Jopek (D)  
Rep. Dave McAlpin (D)  
Rep. Art Noonan (D)  
Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D)  
Rep. Lee Randall (R)  
Rep. J. David Roundstone (D)  
Rep. Jon Sonju (R)  
Rep. Wayne Stahl (R)  
Rep. Chas Vincent (R)  
Rep. Brady Wiseman (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Mike Miller (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Jeff Martin, Legislative Branch  
Jennifer O'Loughlin, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 679, 3/26/2009; SB 244,  
3/26/2009; SB 467, 2/26/2009

Executive Action: HB 679

**HEARING ON SB 467**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:02:00 Sen. Joe Balyeat (R), SD 34, opened the hearing on  
SB 244, Revise income taxes for taxpayers.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:04:19 Bob Gilbert (for Ronda Wiggers, Montana County  
Treasurers Association)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:05:33 Rep. Wiseman  
00:06:24 Sen Balyeat  
00:07:38 Rep. Wiseman  
00:07:45 Sen. Balyeat  
00:08:32 Rep. Wiseman  
00:09:14 Sen. Balyeat  
00:09:31 Rep. Wiseman  
00:09:34 Sen. Balyeat  
00:10:02 Chairman Lake  
00:10:42 Sen. Balyeat  
00:11:04 Chairman Lake  
00:11:11 Mr. Gilbert  
00:11:28 Rep. Barrett  
00:12:22 Sen. Balyeat  
00:12:50 Rep. Barrett  
00:13:27 Rep. Stahl  
00:14:03 Mr. Gilbert  
00:15:11 Rep. Pomnichowski  
00:16:16 Mr. Gilbert  
00:16:57 Rep. Pomnichowski  
00:17:29 Mr. Gilbert  
00:17:57 Rep. Pomnichowski  
00:18:38 Mr. Gilbert

00:19:21 Rep. Pomnichowski  
00:20:14 Mr. Gilbert  
00:20:37 Mr. Martin  
00:21:48 Chairman Lake  
00:22:22 Mr. Gilbert  
00:22:35 Rep. Stahl  
00:24:49 Chairman Lake

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:25:21 Sen. Balyeat  
  
00:27:29 Chairman Lake closed the hearing.

**HEARING ON SB 244**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:27:37 Sen. Joe Balyeat (R), SD 34, opened the hearing on  
SB 244, Revise income taxes for taxpayers.  
[EXHIBIT \(tah70a01\)](#)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:35:08 Holly Franz, Montana Society of CPAs  
[EXHIBIT \(tah70a02\)](#)  
00:41:19 Don Hoffman, Montana Taxpayers Association

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:41:45 David Ewer, Budget Director, Governor's Office

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:44:24 Rep. Butcher  
00:45:00 Sen. Balyeat  
00:46:09 Rep. McAlpin  
00:46:23 Sen. Balyeat  
00:47:17 Rep. McAlpin  
00:47:23 Ms. Franz  
00:47:36 Rep. McAlpin

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:47:56 Sen. Balyeat

00:54:36 Chairman Lake closed the hearing.

00:54:53 Chairman Lake

**HEARING ON HB 679**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:55:20 Rep. Wayne Stahl (R), HD 35, opened the hearing on HB 679, Eliminate defined benefit pensions; defined contribution as default.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:57:40 Roxanne Minnehan, Executive Director, Montana Public Employees Retirement Board

01:04:02 David Senn, Executive Director, Teachers Retirement System

01:13:29 Tom Schneider, Montana Public Employees Association

01:15:22 Kurt Bushnell, Montana State Firefighters Association

01:15:54 Tom Bilodeau, Research Director, MEA-MFT

**EXHIBIT (tah70a03)**

01:24:15 David Ewer, Budget Director, Governor's Office

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:26:44 Rep. Butcher

01:27:41 Rep. Stahl

01:29:18 Rep. Butcher

01:29:54 Rep. Stahl

01:30:20 Rep. Butcher

01:30:37 Rep. Stahl

01:31:02 Rep. Barrett

01:31:35 Mr. Senn

01:31:47 Rep. Barrett

01:32:05 Rep. McAlpin

01:32:20 Mr. Senn

01:32:50 Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Jopek, Rep. Pomnichowski, Rep. Sonju, and Rep. Wiseman left the room.

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:33:07 Rep. Stahl

01:36:11 Chairman Lake closed the hearing.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 679**

01:36:37 **Motion:** Rep. Stahl moved that **HB 679 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

01:36:43 Rep. Cohenour

01:37:26 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Grinde moved that **HB 679 BE TABLED.** Motion passed 10-9 by roll call vote with Rep. Blasdel, Rep. Butcher, Rep. Hoven, Rep. Lake, Rep. Randall, Rep. Sonju, Rep. Stahl, Rep. Taylor, and Rep. Vincent voting no. Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Jopek, Rep. Pomnichowski, Rep. Sonju, Rep. Wiseman voted by proxy.

**ADJOURNMENT**

01:40:21 Adjournment: 11:40 A.M.

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Jennifer O'Loughlin, Secretary

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Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT** (**tah70a04**)

Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT** (**tah70aad.pdf**)